

I am very disappointed in Sinclair Broadcast Group's decision to air an anti-Kerry propaganda piece being masqueraded as a documentary. I am equally disappointed in the FCC's response, or rather its failure to respond appropriately to what I believe is an abuse of the airwaves and a real threat to the execution of a fair presidential election.

At a time when the FCC is taking a clear stand on issues of public morality such as the Janet Jackson affair, it seems incongruous to me that it would not also move forcefully to rein in practices that subvert the democratic process in our country. The FCC is charged with acting on the people's behalf in the people's interest, and to this point it doesn't appear that the FCC is showing the same level of stewardship in ensuring a fair election that it did in monitoring the Super Bowl's advertising. This is an unacceptable placement of the commission's priorities. This has become an exceptionally divisive election, and the FCC's inaction will only fuel that divisiveness.

That the corporate heads at Sinclair are able to force local affiliates to run the propaganda without regard for the local public's best interests runs counter to the spirit in which its broadcast licenses were granted, I believe. The fact that it is able to reach nearly a quarter of the American public with its stations makes that breach extremely serious.

Please act to block Sinclair's airing of this propaganda -- or at the very least -- force it to label the piece as such. And please consider developing safeguards, including a reversal of the consolidation we've seen in the broadcast medium, that will prevent this sort of thing from happening in the future.

Thank you.